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The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign

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His Excellency,
Mario Soares,
President of the Portuguese Republic

Fax no: 010 351 1 363 6603

Your Excellency,

This organisation has just obtained a copy of the Final Declaration adopted at the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the European ~~Committee~~ and the Association of South East Asian Nations, held in Luxembourg on 30 and 31 May 1991.

It came as a great shock to discover that the Declaration makes no reference at all to the human rights situation in East Timor whereas the situation there continues to be of grave concern. In fact, the Declaration gives the impression that the human rights situation in Asia is developing along positive lines. Portugal has always made a point of insisting on every possible forum that due attention be paid to the situation in East Timor. For this reason, we see the Declaration as a setback. With Portugal becoming a member of the Troika which governs EC affairs from 1 July, in advance of taking over the Presidency on 1 January 1992, we do urge you to make sure that East Timor receives due attention on EC councils.

We would also like to draw your attention to the horrifying atrocities being perpetrated by the Indonesian military authorities in Aceh, North Sumatra. We earnestly ask you to ensure that Portuguese representatives raise this issue at the EC and on occasions when meetings are held with ASEAN representatives.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Budiardjo

* This was corrected to Community